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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 07497 300916Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IV, ET
SUBJECT: STATEMENT OF HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY ON DEATH OF HAILE SELASSIE

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF STATEMENT BY IVORY COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY ON DEATH OF EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE:

QUOTE: I HAVE RECEIVED THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE WITH GREAT EMOTION. A GREAT AFRICAN HAS DISAPPEARED TODAY. HE WAS THE MAGNIFICENT INCARNATION OF THE HEROIC RESISTANCE OF A PEOPLE AT A DFFICULT MOMENT WHEN INTERNATIONAL OPINION WAS SCARCELY CONCERNED WITH THE DESTINY OF AFRICA AND THE FUTURE OF ITS INDEPENDENT STATES. IN 1963 HE WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND REMAINED ONE OF ITS MOST DEDICATED AND FAITHFUL DEFENDERS AND GUIDING SPIRITS. HE BELIEVED IN A FREE AFRICA, HARMONIOUS AND UNIFIED. THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE HIS EVERY EFFORT WAS DIRECTED TOWARD THE TOTAL LIBERATION OF OUR CONTINENT AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AN AFRICA MISTRESS OF HER OWN DESTINY AND CAPABLE OF CONFRONTING THE CHALLENGES OF OUR CENTURY THROUGH DYNAMIC AND ENDURING INSTITUTIONS. MAY THIS VERY DEAR AND FAITHFUL FRIEND REST IN PEACE IN THE AFRICAN SOIL WHICH HE LOVED SO WELL UNQUOTE.

2. DEATH OF HAILE SELASSIE RECEIVED HEAVY COVERAGE IN
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IVORIAN MEDIA INCLUDING TELEVISION SPECIAL ON LIFE OF FORMER

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EMPEROR. COOKE

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